

## Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6497

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, XM

SUBJECT: INTER-AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER

REF: (A) STATE 177008; (B) LA PAZ 5801(NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. FIRST RATE S&T CENTERS IN ARGENTINA, CHILE, PERU, BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, AND URUGUAY ARE IDENTIFIED, AND A NUMBER CITED AS BEING PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. IMPORTANT RESEARCH COUNCILS ARE SIMILARLY IDENTIFIED, AND COMMENTS PROVIDED ON OTHER POINTS RAISED REFTEL(A). WE FEEL THAT AN INTERAMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER SHOULD, AT MOST, CONTRIBUTE TO SUPPORT LOCAL TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS IN LATAM. END SUMMARY.

2. S&T COUNSELOR WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED BY NRSTEL TO OFFER INFORMATION AND COMMENTS RELATED TO THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC. THIS REPLY REFLECTS SOME DEGREE OF ACQUAINTANCE WITH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICJO INSTITUTIONS IN ARGENTINA, CHILE, PERU, VOLIBIA URUGUAY, AND PARAGUAY. FOLLOWING KEYED TO REFTEL.

2) FIRST RATE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTIONS IN ONE OR MORE OF FIELDS CITED REFTEL: FOLLOWING ARE VERY GOOD INSTITUTIONS

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WHICH, IN OUR VIEW, MEET THIS DEFINITION ALTHOUGH ALL HAVE

SERIOUS FUNDING PROBLEMS. MOST HAVE SOME GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMS, OR AT LEAST SOME RESEARCH PROJECTS INVOLVING GRADUATE STUDENTS:

(A) ARGENTINA: OSIR FORCE SCHOOL OF AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING, CORDOBA; UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES (PARTICULARLY FACULTIES OF EXACT SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING); NATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEA), PARTICULARLY HEADQUARTERS, CONSTITUENT YPRUTERJ# AND BWGILOCH# ATOMIC CENTER; NAVAL TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE; UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, BAHIA BLANCA; NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGICAL AGENCY STPWUTE# OF ILICUNLITO# UNIVERSITY,

SANTA FE (TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE FOR THE CHATICAL INDUSTRY, INTEC); ARMED FORCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CITEFA); ARGENTINE MATHEMATICS INSTITUTE (IAM); INTERDISCIPLINARY CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICAL PSYCHOLOGY (CIIPME); CENTER FOR R&D IN CRYO-TECHNOLOGY OF FOODS (CIDCA), LA PLATA; CENTER FOR R&D IN PAINT TECHNOLOGY (CIDEPI), LA PLATA; CENTER FOR R&D IN CATALYTIC PROCESSES (CIDECA), LA PLATA; CENTER FOR R&D OF INDUSTRIAL FERMENTATION (CINDEFI), LA PLATA; INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL AND APPLIED PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY RESEARCH (OHKINIFTA), LA PLATA; PILOT PLANT FOR CHEMICAL ENGINEERING (PLAPIQUI), BAHIA BLANCA; BARILOCHE FOUNDATION, S.C. DE BARILOCHE; UNIVERSITY OF TUCUMAN, TUCUMAN; U. OF LA PLATA, LA PLATA; U. OF CORDOBA, CORDOBA. (B) CHILE: CHILEAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION (CCEN); UNIVERSITY OF CHILE; INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE (INTEC). (C) PERU: WE KNOW OF NO REALLY GOOD SUCH INSTITUTES IN PERU; HOWEVER ITINTEC IS DEVELOPING SOME, AND HAS AN INTERESTING APPROACH TO ENCOURAGING TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT. (D) BOLIVIA: INSTITUTE FOR STANDARDS & TECHNOLOGY; METALLURGICAL MINERALS RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ORURO. (COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH REFTEL (B) RE OTHER INSTITUTES, BUT FEEL THEY DON'T FALL WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF FIELDS IDENTIFIED IN PARA 2, REFTEL (A).) (E) PARAGUAY: BASIC SCIENCES INSTITUTE; NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND STANDARDIZATION INSTITUTE (INTN). (F) URUGUAY: NONE WE ARE AWARE OF.

3. WE WOULD RECOMMEND VISITS TO THE FOLLOWING, THE WORK OF WHICH IS SUMMARIZED BELOW:

(A) INTI (ARGENTINA): HAS GOOD STANDARDS LAB AND MANY CENTERS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN INDUSTRIAL R&D. CONTROLS TECHNOLOGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTATION. (B) ITINTEC (PERU): HAS WIDE RESPONSIBILITIES TO ENCOURAGE R&D THRU LEGISLATION WHICH REQUIRES THAT A PERCENTAGE OF INDUSTRIAL PROFITS BE DEVOTED TO THAT PURPOSE. CONTROLS TECHNOLOGY IMPORTATION. REGISTERS PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS. IS CREATING FIVE NEW R&D CENTERS. (C) CNEA CONSTITUENT CENTER: LEADING CENTER IN R&D IN METALLURGY AND IN QUALITY CONTROL. (D) CITEFA: A LEADING R&D CENTER IN AERONAUTICS, METALLURGY, CHEMISTRY, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, SOLID STATE AND PLASMA

PHYSICS. (E) INTEC (CHILE): DEVOTED TO MOVING TOWARD A SELF-SUPPORTING R&D LAB OF SERVICE TO THE COUNTRY. PROGRAMS IN FOOD TECHNOLOGY, METALLURGY, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING, ETC. (F) INTN (PARAGUAY): CONDUCTS R&D ON FOOD TECHNOLOGY, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, WOOD, LEATHER, TEXTILES. RE THE RESEARCH COUNCILS, THE CONICET OF ARGENTINA IS BY FAR THE LARGEST AND SUPPORTS THE WORK OF MANY OF THE CENTERS CITED UNDER 2(A). ALSO WITH SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON RESEARCH IN THEIR COUNTRIES ARE THE CONIGYT OF CHILE AND THE CONICYT OF URUGUAY. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION THAT PERU'S CONI HAS YET TO RECEIVE A SUFFICIENT BUDGET FOR IT TO HAVE MUCH OF AN EFFECT.

4. LINKAGE OF RESEARCH CENTERS AND INDUSTRY IS FAR TOO LITTLE, BUT ATTEMPTS ARE BEING MADE TO INCREASE IT, E.G. AT INTEC-CHILE, ITINTEC-PERU, AND AT INTI AND ELSEWHERE IN ARGENTINA. WE FAIL TO SEE A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THIS PROCESS FOR A NEW INTERAMERICAN CENTER. THE WORK MUST BE DONE DIRECTLY AND LOCALLY BETWEEN THE RESEARCH CENTERS AND LOCAL (WHETHER FOREIGN OR LOCALLY CONTROLLED) INDUSTRY.

5. WE ARE UNAWARE OF SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF NAS-BOSTID-AID PROGRAMS IN S&T IN THIS 6-COUNTRY REGION IN RECENT YEARS, ASIDE FROM A WORKSHOP IN PERU WHICH PROBABLY WAS OF SOME HELP TO ITINTEC. NSF'S COOPERATIVE SCIENCE PROGRAM IS DEFINITELY TAKING HOLD, PARTICULARLY IN ARGENTINA AND CHILE. NASA COOPERATION IS VALUABLE TO SEVERAL COUNTRIES, BUT TGIS COULD NOT RPT NOT BE SAID TO SUPPORT RESEARCH. INTERNATIONAL BANKING INSTITUTIONS HAVE NOT RPT NOT PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE SO FAR, WHEREAS THERE HAVE BEEN SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY OAS, UNDP, IAEA, AND UNESCO. WE SEE NO USEFUL ROLE FOR THE INTERAMERICAN CENTER, OTHER THAN AS A POSSIBLE VEHICLE OF SUPPORT FOR EXISTING NATIONAL TECHNOLOGICAL CENTERS, IF FUNDS WERE TO BE PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE. MOST PROCESSES SUGGESTED ARE BETTER HANDLED MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DIRECTLY. WE SEE FEW POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES HERE IN ACCEPTING SUCH A CENTER, BUT ALSO LITTLE CONTRIBUTION THAT IT COULD MAKE AND LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY OF THESE COUNTRIES BEING ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO ITS SUPPORT. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT NEW CENTER WOULD HAVE LITTLE ADVANTAGE OVER OAS IN DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS. LOANS DO NOT APPEAR PRACTICABLE, AS REPAYMENT BY CENTERS THEMSELVES NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE. U.S. INDUSTRY HAS MAJOR INVOLVEMENT IN MANAGEMENT, IN CONSULTING, AND IN ENGINEERING OF PROJECTS IN THIS REGION. WE DOUBT THAT NEW CENTER COULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE, NOR COMPLEMENT DIRECT BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. CONCENTRATION(OF FUNDS) ON A LONG-TERM INPUT TO LA TECHNOLOGY BY THE USG IS PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT DESIRABLE. AS TECHNOLOGIES DEVELOP, THEY CAN BEST BE TRANSFERRED BY COMMERCIAL MEANS, E.G. LICENSING AGREEMENTS, CONSULTANTS, AND DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

7. COMMENT: IN OUR VIEW, TECHNOLOGY IS BEST TRANSFERRED BY KNOWLEDGEABLE EXPERIENCED PEOPLE. IT IS ALSO INSEPARABLE FROM ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT. WHILE MODEST SUPPORT OF ALREADY OPERATING AND NEW LATAM TECHNOLOGY CENTERS VIA OAS OR UNDP MAKES SOME SENSE, IT WOULD HARDLY BE DEFENSIBLE TO CONCENTRATE MUCH OF THE TAXPAYER'S MONEY TO THIS CAUSE. WE CERTAINLY SEE NO POINT TO CREATION OF A NEW INTERAMERICAN TECHNOLOGY CENTER WHICH WILL, IN FACT, WIND UP BEING PRIMARILY A CENTER FOR THE COUNTRY IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED. WE SUPPORT THE VIEW THAT, IF SUCH A CENTER IS TO BE, IT SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON SUPPORTING EFFORTS OF LOCAL CENTERS IN THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.  
CHAPLIN

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